

## **Food Policy Council Subcommittee Findings**

### **March 17, 2006**

These are the notes from the chairmen of the various subcommittees and the issues that were discussed during their first meeting:

#### **I. Agriculture & Food Infrastructure**

- a. Fresh food availability for buyer
- b. Increase institutional purchasing of SC products
- c. Farmer's Markets
  - i. Are there specific requirements to start one?
  - ii. Ability to connect consumer with the farmer
  - iii. Price should not be the only driving factor for attendance and purchase.
  - iv. Types of customer
    - 1. Tourists vs. Locals
- d. State Farmer's Market
  - i. Promotion of culinary heritage
- e. Organic seed & fertilizer for SC farmers
- f. Cooperatives
  - i. Owning further down the line
    - 1. Increase sovereignty of producer over his product.
- g. Encourage restaurants to purchase local products
  - i. Certified kitchens
  - ii. Offer taxbreaks

#### **II. Agriculture Production & Sustainability**

- a. Branding of ag products is key to success
- b. Weigh profit, decide which type of farm to choose
- c. Tax structure helps to keep farmland available
- d. Is there a group in the state that helps to preserve farmland?
- e. Producer retained value (seeds to consumer)
- f. Co-operative processing
- g. Create incentive for community kitchens to process locally grown products
- h. Grow what you sell vs. selling what you grow
- i. Program to help farmers with profitability
- j. Tax incentives:
  - i. Eliminate sales-tax on products purchased to grow crops

#### **III. Consumer Awareness & Education/Food Nutrition & Health**

- a. Bringing food production and consumption closer together
- b. Education about this issue at new levels
  - i. Legislators

1. In order to make better informed legislative decisions
- ii. Consumers
  1. Increase state appropriations to support consumer nutrition education
    - a. Food stamp program
- c. More efficient coordination of educational resources through a centralized resource in order to improve ability of access for professionals and consumers
  - i. Compilation of organizations existing materials
    1. Clemson Nutrition Education
    2. SCDHEC
    3. SCDA
      - a. On Food Policy Council website
        - i. Consumer educative resources should be culturally and educationally appropriate
- d. Collaboration with private entities
  - i. Restaurants
  - ii. Supermarkets
- e. Partnerships with non-traditional sources for funding of educational endeavors
- f. Support funding of USDA school fruit and vegetable snack program
  - i. Include with support increased criteria that SC grown products will receive priority
- g. Encourage use of SC products by SC businesses
- h. Revise procurement code regarding the percent purchase of SC grown produce
- i. Implement farm to school, farm to college, and farm to seniors programs in SC
- j. Support funding of “SC Quality” program for wider use
- k. Gaps in Food Policy Council Membership
  - i. Schools
  - ii. Retail grocers association
  - iii. Restaurant association
  - iv. Health insurers and pharmacy association

#### **IV. Community Development and Food Accessibility**

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##### **Issues:**

- Access to grocery stores
- Transportation
- Mental accessibility
- Business and Support
- Access to culturally diverse agriculture
- Bringing food consumption and production closer together
- Value added investment

- Rural tourism
- Raising awareness of SC Agriculture
- Food Bank awareness
- Social awareness
- Sending common messages
- Cost

Ideas and Resources:

- Identify and target environments to enhance: communities, schools, retail, neighborhoods, restaurants, seniors.
- Try “Farm to” in a variety of environments: farm to school, farm to restaurant, farm to markets, etc.
- Support SC in applying for appropriations: 1M per year for purchasing fruit and vegetable snacks in schools through school food service.
- Look into promoting USDA immigrant farm program, which help new immigrants start farms.
- Food Security/Insecurity assessments: Look at Philadelphia Food Trust and PANA as well as USDA Community Food Project.

Workgroup Representation Needed:

- Seeds of Hope
- Grocery/Retail
- Local Government